

(4) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to Max Falkenstein.

SENATE RESOLUTION 450—DESIGNATING JUNE 2006 AS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mrs. DOLE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 450

Whereas the mission of the National Safety Council is to educate and influence citizens of the United States to adopt safety, health, and environmental policies, practices, and procedures that prevent and mitigate human suffering and economic losses arising from preventable causes;

Whereas the National Safety Council works to protect lives and promote health with innovative programs;

Whereas the National Safety Council, founded in 1913, is celebrating its 93rd anniversary in 2006 as the premier source of safety and health information, education, and training in the United States;

Whereas the National Safety Council was chartered by Congress in 1953, and is celebrating its 53rd anniversary in 2006 as a congressionally-chartered organization;

Whereas even with advancements in safety that create a safer environment for the people of the United States, such as new legislation and improvements in technology, the unintentional-injury death toll is still unacceptable;

Whereas the National Safety Council has demonstrated leadership in educating citizens of the United States on how to prevent injuries and deaths to senior citizens as a result of falls;

Whereas citizens deserve a solution to nationwide safety and health threats;

Whereas such a solution requires the cooperation of all levels of government, as well as the general public;

Whereas the summer season, traditionally a time of increased unintentional-injury fatalities, is an appropriate time to focus attention on both the problem and the solution to such safety and health threats; and

Whereas the theme of "National Safety Month" for 2006 is "Making Our World A Safer Place": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2006 as "National Safety Month"; and

(2) recognizes the accomplishments of the National Safety Council and calls upon the citizens of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I join with Senator DOLE, Senator LANDRIEU, Senator ALLEN, and Senator DURBIN to submit a resolution to designate June 2006 as National Safety Month. This year, the National Safety Council has selected "making our world a safer place" as its theme for National Safety Month. And that is certainly a goal we want and need to achieve.

Public safety in the workplace, in our homes, and in communities, and on our roads and highways is a vital challenge that we all face. According to the National Safety Council, more than 20 million Americans suffer disabling injuries and 100,000 people die from their

injuries each year. In the United States, nearly 43,000 people die each year from motor vehicle crashes, making auto fatalities the number one killer of those between the ages of 4 and 34. Many of these deaths and injuries could be prevented with increased education and information on proper precautionary measures.

The goal of National Safety Month is to raise public awareness about safety and injury prevention in hopes of reducing these needless deaths and injuries. June also is an appropriate month to focus our efforts on public safety since the summer season is traditionally a time of increased accidental injuries and fatalities.

Throughout the month, the National Safety Council and other safety organizations will urge businesses to increase their safety standards in the workplace and provide information to individuals on injury prevention in all aspects of their lives.

I look forward to working with other Members of Congress and the many safety organizations to help educate the public on the importance of injury prevention and make our world a safer place.

I thank my fellow Colleagues for their support of this resolution and for their continued dedication to public safety. I also would like to thank the National Safety Council, which celebrates its 93rd anniversary in 2006, as a leading source of safety and health information, education, and training in the United States. Their work is vital and makes a difference each and every day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 451—EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE SENATE FOR THE RECONVENING OF THE PARLIAMENT OF NEPAL AND FOR AN IMMEDIATE, PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. SUNUNU) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 451

Whereas, in 1990, Nepal adopted a constitution that enshrined multi-party democracy under a constitutional monarchy, ending 3 decades of absolute monarchical rule;

Whereas, since 1996, Maoist insurgents have waged a violent campaign to replace the constitutional monarchy with a communist republic, which has resulted in widespread human rights violations by both sides and the loss of an estimated 12,000 lives;

Whereas the Maoist insurgency grew out of the radicalization and fragmentation of left wing parties following Nepal's transition to democracy in 1990;

Whereas, on June 1, 2001, King Birendra, Queen Aishwarya and other members of the Royal family were murdered, leaving the throne to the slain King's brother, the current King Gyanendra;

Whereas, in May 2002, in the face of increasing Maoist violence, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba dissolved the Parliament of Nepal;

Whereas, in October 2002, King Gyanendra dismissed Prime Minister Deuba;

Whereas, in June 2004, after the unsuccessful tenures of 2 additional palace-appointed prime ministers, King Gyanendra re-appointed Prime Minister Deuba and mandated that he hold general elections by April 2005;

Whereas, on February 1, 2005, King Gyanendra accused Nepali political leaders of failing to solve the Maoist problem, seized absolute control of Nepal by dismissing and detaining Prime Minister Deuba and declaring a state of emergency, temporarily shut down Nepal's communications, detained hundreds of politicians and political workers, and limited press and other constitutional freedoms;

Whereas, in November 2005, the mainstream political parties formed a seven-party alliance with the Maoists and agreed to a 12 point agenda that called for a restructuring of the government of Nepal to include an end to absolute monarchical rule and the formation of an interim all-party government with a view to holding elections for a constituent assembly to rewrite the Constitution of Nepal;

Whereas, since February 2005, King Gyanendra has promulgated dozens of ordinances without parliamentary process that violate basic freedoms of expression and association, including the Election Code of Conduct that seeks to limit media freedom in covering elections and the Code of Conduct for Social Organizations that bars staff of nongovernmental organizations from having political affiliations;

Whereas King Gyanendra ordered the arrest of hundreds of political workers in January 2006 before holding municipal elections on February 8, 2006, which the Department of State characterized as "a hollow attempt by the King to legitimize his power";

Whereas the people of Nepal have been peacefully protesting since April 6, 2006, in an attempt to restore the democratic political process;

Whereas on April 10, 2006, the Department of State declared that King Gyanendra's February 2005 decision "to impose direct palace rule in Nepal has failed in every regard" and called on the King to restore democracy immediately and to begin a dialogue with Nepal's political parties;

Whereas King Gyanendra ordered a crackdown on the protests, which has left at least 14 Nepali citizens dead and hundreds injured by the security forces of Nepal;

Whereas the people of Nepal are suffering hardship due to food shortages and lack of sufficient medical care because of the prevailing political crisis;

Whereas King Gyanendra announced on April 21, 2006, that the executive power of Nepal shall be returned to the people and called on the seven-party alliance to name a new prime minister to govern the country in accordance with the 1990 Constitution of Nepal;

Whereas the seven-party alliance subsequently rejected King Gyanendra's April 21, 2006 statement and called on him to reinstate parliament and allow for the establishment of a constituent assembly to draw up a new constitution;

Whereas on April 24, 2006, King Gyanendra announced that he would reinstate the Parliament of Nepal on April 28, 2006, and apologized for the deaths and injuries that occurred during the recent demonstrations, but did not address the issue of constitutional revision;

Whereas political party leaders have welcomed King Gyanendra's April 24th announcement and stated that the first action of the reconvened parliament will be the scheduling of elections for a constituent assembly to redraft the Constitution of Nepal.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its support for the reconvening of the Parliament of Nepal and for an immediate, peaceful transition to democracy;

(2) commends the desire of the people of Nepal for a democratic system of government and expresses its support for their right to protest peacefully in pursuit of this goal;

(3) acknowledges the April 24, 2006 statement by King Gyanendra regarding his intent to reinstate the Parliament of Nepal;

(4) urges the Palace, the political parties, and the Maoists to immediately support a process that returns the country to multiparty democracy and creates the conditions for peace and stability in Nepal;

(5) declares that the transition to democracy in Nepal must be peaceful and that violence conducted by any party is unacceptable and risks sending Nepal into a state of anarchy;

(6) calls on security forces of Nepal to exercise maximum restraint and to uphold the highest standards of conduct in their response to the protests;

(7) urges the immediate release of all political detainees and the restoration of full civilian and political rights, including freedom of association, expression, and assembly;

(8) urges the Maoists to lay down their arms and to pursue their goals through participation in a peaceful political process; and

(9) calls on the Government of the United States to work closely with other governments, including the governments of India, China, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, and with the United Nations to ensure a common and coherent international approach that helps to bring about an immediate peaceful transition to democracy and to end the violent insurgency in Nepal.

SENATE RESOLUTION 452—RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE THROUGHOUT ITS 65 YEARS OF SERVICE AS “AMERICA’S NATIONAL BALLET COMPANY”

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. DOLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 452

Whereas American Ballet Theatre (known as “ABT”) is recognized as one of the world’s great dance companies;

Whereas ABT is dedicated to bringing dance to the United States and dance of the United States to the world;

Whereas, over its 65-year history, ABT has appeared in all 50 States of the United States, in a total of 126 cities, and has performed for more than 600,000 people annually;

Whereas ABT has performed in 42 countries as perhaps the most representative ballet company of the United States, with many of those engagements sponsored by the Department of State;

Whereas ABT has been home to the world’s most accomplished dancers and has commissioned works by all of the great choreographic geniuses of the 20th century;

Whereas President Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized ABT’s ability to convey through the medium of ballet “some measure of understanding of America’s cultural environment and inspiration”;

Whereas over the years ABT has performed repeatedly at the White House, most recently in December 2005;

Whereas ABT is committed to bringing dance to a broad audience and provides exposure to dance to more than 20,000 underprivileged children and their families each year;

Whereas ABT’s award-winning Make a Ballet program and its other outreach initiatives help to meet the need for arts education in underserved schools and communities;

Whereas ABT’s Studio Company brings world class ballet to smaller communities like—

(1) Rochester, New York;

(2) Stamford, Connecticut;

(3) Sanibel, Florida;

(4) South Hadley, Massachusetts; and

(5) Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and

Whereas the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at ABT and the ABT’s other artistic development initiatives provide the highest quality training consistent with the professional standards of ABT: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and commends the American Ballet Theatre for over 65 years of service as “America’s National Ballet Company”, during which it has provided world class art to audiences in all 50 States;

(2) recognizes that the American Ballet Theatre also serves as a true cultural ambassador for the United States, by having performed in 42 countries and fulfilling its reputation as one of the world’s most revered and innovative dance companies; and

(3) recognizes that the American Ballet Theatre’s extensive and innovative education, outreach, and artistic development programs both train future generations of great dancers and expose students to the arts.

SENATE RESOLUTION 453—CONGRATULATING CHARTER SCHOOLS AND THEIR STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR THEIR ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. FRIST, Mr. CARPER, Mr. VITTER, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BURR, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. DEMINT, and Mr. MARTINEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 453

Whereas charter schools deliver high-quality education and challenge our students to reach their potential;

Whereas charter schools provide thousands of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children;

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by a designated public entity that are responding to the needs of our communities, families, and students and promoting the principles of quality, choice, and innovation;

Whereas in exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, they are held accountable by their sponsors for improving student achievement and for their financial and other operations;

Whereas 40 States and the District of Columbia have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas more than 3,600 charter schools are now operating in 40 States and the District of Columbia, serving more than 1,000,000 students;

Whereas over the last 12 years, Congress has provided nearly \$1,775,000,000 in support

to the charter school movement through facilities financing assistance and grants for planning, startup, implementation, and dissemination;

Whereas charter schools improve their students’ achievement and stimulate improvement in traditional public schools;

Whereas charter schools must meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in the same manner as traditional public schools, and often set higher and additional individual goals to ensure that they are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas charter schools give parents new freedom to choose their public school, routinely measure parental satisfaction levels, and must prove their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and their communities;

Whereas nearly 56 percent of charter schools report having a waiting list, and the total number of students on all such waiting lists is enough to fill over 1,100 average-sized charter schools;

Whereas charter schools nationwide serve a higher percentage of low-income and minority students than the traditional public system;

Whereas charter schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the Administration, Congress, State Governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the United States; and

Whereas the seventh annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 1 through 6, 2006, is an event sponsored by charter schools and grassroots charter school organizations across the United States to recognize the significant impacts, achievements, and innovations of charter schools: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate acknowledges and commends charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and improving and strengthening our public school system;

(2) the Senate supports the seventh annual National Charter Schools Week; and

(3) it is the sense of the Senate that the people of the United States should conduct appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to demonstrate support for charter schools during this week long celebration in communities throughout the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 454—HONORING MALCOLM P. MCLEAN AS THE FATHER OF CONTAINERIZATION

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. INOUE, and Mrs. DOLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 454

Whereas Malcom P. McLean is widely recognized as the father of containerization;

Whereas the innovative idea of using intermodal containers suitable for rail, truck, and maritime transportation revolutionized and streamlined the process of shipping goods, allowed products to be moved to the market more quickly, and reduced prices for consumers;

Whereas the use of containerization in shipping practices enabled the United States to increase international trade by modernizing and globalizing the economy of the United States;

Whereas Mr. McLean launched numerous successful transportation businesses that were located in the Port of Newark, New Jersey, including—